

# First National CDC Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Student Health

For the first time, CDC released new nationally representative data on the health of the 1.3 million lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) high school students and an additional 400,000 students who did not identify as LGB but had same sex sexual partners. These data were from a new report—*Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12 – United States and Selected Sites, 2015*—and offer insights into the health risks and outcomes of LGB high school students.



## CDC data show that LGB students are at substantial risk for serious health outcomes.

- A substantial percent of LGB students experience physical violence (18%), sexual dating violence (23%), and bullying at school (34%) or online (28%).
- More than 40% of LGB students have seriously considered attempting suicide, and 29% reported have attempted suicide during the past 12 months.
- LGB students are up to five times more likely than other students to use illegal drugs.
- More than one in 10 LGB students missed school during the past 30 days due to safety concerns.

While many lesbian, gay, and bisexual teens thrive during adolescence, stigma, discrimination, and other factors can put them at increased risk for negative health and life outcomes.

## Resources



### The report and related information are available on the following Web sites:

- **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report:** "Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9-12 – United States and Selected Sites, 2015"  
[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6509a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/ss/ss6509a1.htm)
- **Report Summary:** [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/smy.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/smy.htm)
- **Data Summary:** [www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/2016/lgb-media-data-summary.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/2016/lgb-media-data-summary.pdf)
- **JAMA Viewpoint Article:** [bit.ly/jamaviewpointarticle](http://bit.ly/jamaviewpointarticle)
- **Communication Resources:** [www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/lgb\\_communication.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/disparities/lgb_communication.htm)
- **Youth Online:** [nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx](http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx)



The scope and magnitude of the problem on a national scale is heartbreaking.



— Jonathan Mermin, M.D., Director, CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention



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Viral Hepatitis, STD, and  
TB Prevention